**The History of I.B.E.W. Local Union 141-Wheeling, WV**

In 1893 Local Union 21 first appears in Wheeling as an Electrical Workers Union. In July of 1897 Local Union 21 dissolved with the years to come to be represented but not formally acknowledged as a Union. A former Local Union from Pittsburg, KS & Frankfort, KY appeared in Wheeling in January of 1902 listed as a mixed Local 142. In November of that same year (1902) Local 141 appears in Wheeling as a Line Local. Eight years later in early 1910 Local 142 disappears and is listed as a mixed Local. The first Convention that Local 141 was mentioned in was 1911. Our Local Union 141 was Charted in 1902. 113 years to this date in 2015 and going STRONG!

**Our Members**

All our members have been through 5 years of Nationally certified training onsite with no less than 8,000 hours of on-the-job training with various local contractors. ALL our members are drug tested and have OSHA safety training. Every Member has a WV Electrical license through the state. We have yearly Continuing Education classes for: CPR, NFPA 70e, MSHA/Confined Space, First Aid, OSHA 10, Drug Free Workplace, Basic Motor Controls (1&2), Rigging & Signaling, Foreman Training, Manlift Safety, Grounding & Bonding per NEC, Ideal Meters & Testing and Basic Transformers.

**The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) is a labor union which represents nearly 750,000 workers and retirees in the electrical industry in the United States, Canada, Panama, Guam and Wake Island. and several Caribbean Island nations; particularly electricians, or Inside Wiremen, in the construction industry and linemen and other employees of public utilities. The union also represents some workers in the computer, telecommunications, broadcasting, and other fields related to electrical work. It was founded in 1891 shortly after homes and businesses in the United States began receiving electricity. Its international president is Lonnie R. Stephenson. The IBEW is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

The beginnings of the IBEW were in the Electrical Wiremen and Linemen's Union No. 5221, founded in St. Louis, Missouri in 1890. By 1891, after sufficient interest was shown in a national union, a convention was held on November 21, 1891, in St. Louis. At the convention, the IBEW, then known as the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (NBEW), was officially formed. The American Federation of Labor gave the NBEW a charter as an AFL affiliate on December 7, 1891. The union's official journal, The Electrical Worker, was first published on January 15, 1893, and has been published ever since. At the 1899 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the union's name was officially changed to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The union went through lean times in its early years, then struggled through six years of schism during the 1910s, when two rival groups each claimed to be the duly elected leaders of the union. In 1919, as many employers were trying to drive unions out of the workplace through a national open shop campaign, the union agreed to form the Council on Industrial Relations, a bipartite body made up of equal numbers of management and union representatives with the power to resolve any collective bargaining disputes. That body still functions today and has largely eliminated strikes in the IBEW's jurisdiction in the construction industry.

In September 1941, the National Apprenticeship Standards for the Electrical Construction Industry, a joint effort among the IBEW, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, were established. The IBEW added additional training programs and courses as needed to keep up with new technologies, including an industrial electronics course in 1959 and an industrial nuclear power course in 1966.

Today, the IBEW conducts apprenticeship programs for electricians, linemen, and VDV (voice, data, and video) installers (who install low-voltage wiring such as computer networks), in conjunction with the National Electrical Contractors Association, under the auspices of the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC), which allows apprentices to "earn while you learn." In Canadian jurisdictions the IBEW does not deliver apprenticeship training but does conduct supplemental training for government trained apprentices and journeypersons, often at no or little cost to its members. The IBEW local 353 Toronto requires all apprentices to be registered with the JAC (Joint Apprenticeship Council) for several safety courses, pre-apprenticeship training, pre-trade school courses, supplementary training, as well as pre-exam courses.

The IBEW's membership peaked in 1972 at approximately 1 million members. The membership numbers were in a slow decline throughout the rest of the 1970s and the 1980s but have since stabilized. One major loss of membership for the IBEW came about because of the court-ordered breakup at the end of 1982 of AT&T, where the IBEW was heavily organized among both telephone workers and in AT&T's manufacturing facilities. Membership as of 2013 stands at about 750,000 according to their own official website.